

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Procurement of Soyabean

2905. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested by the Andhra Pradesh Government to designate TRIFED for procurement of Soyabean in the scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal and considered to designate NAFED for procurement of Soyabean outside the scheduled areas in the State and also TRIFED to continue procurement in the scheduled areas; and

(c) if so, whether necessary instructions have been issued in this regard and if not, when it is expected to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Under Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of soyabean in the scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh, NAFED has been utilising the services of Girijan Co-operative Development Corporation which is a constituent member of the TRIFED. This arrangement has been working well. Nomination of two parallel agencies for procurement under PSS may create operational and coordination problems which have to be avoided in the interest of the farmers.

Excess Foodgrains *vis-a-vis* Famine Conditions

2906. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to face the precarious situation of excess foodgrains on one side and famine like conditions in some States on the other side;

(b) whether any strategy has been prepared and implemented to bridge the gap between the two; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) With a view to meeting the famine like situation in the drought affected States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, the Government of India has authorized the FCI on 12.01.2001 to release upto 5.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice), free of cost, to the State Governments of these States or their nominees. The State Governments are required to make their own arrangements for transportation of these foodgrains from the FCI godowns. Government has also made a special additional allocation of 1 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to the State Government of Gujarat on 29.01.2001 for distribution to the families affected by the earthquake, which occurred on 26.01.2001. The Government also authorised the FCI on 16.1.2001, to release feed category foodgrains (wheat and rice), free of cost, to feed the cattle in these States. FCI was further directed that the cattle feed, available in other States not affected by drought, are also to be made available to the drought affected States. The Bharatiya Jeev Jantu Kalyan Board has also been allotted 2500 M.T. of feed category foodgrains for the States of Gujarat 1000 M.T. each for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 500 M.T. each for the States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh. The Government has also launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana on 25.12.2000. Under this scheme, the Government, shall release wheat and rice @ Rs.2/- and Rs.3/-per Kg. respectively subject to 25 Kg. per family, per month, to approximately one crore poorest families all over the country and the State Governments have accordingly been directed to identify these families.